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A clarion call to V3: We have questions, we need answers

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Session: Learning to Innovate



OPEN AND FREE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE RESEARCH AGENDA CAN HELP TOWARDS ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE USE OF SMALL RESERVOIRS

Key Message

Siltation, water seepage and the eco-health of small reservoirs are identified by local stakeholders as major risks to the productivity and sustainability of the reservoirs. However, quantification of these risks as well as the identification of the means and actions to undertake to limit these threats remains to be established formally.

Summary

Several decades after their creation, while the reservoirs remain, their vocations have evolved and their place in the mental landscapes has also changed. The development of commercial agriculture in their periphery and the introduction of associated cash flow in the households' economy have appreciably upset the traditional farming systems and the rural economy. Siltation, water seepage from the dam and health issues for both human and ecosystems are identified by local stakeholders as major threats. The quantification of these threats as well as the identification of the means and actions to undertake to limit these threats were explicitly raised at the sensitization workshop. Another challenge that confronts small reservoirs is their multiple users. The establishment of a buffer zone around the reservoirs was unanimously proposed as a means to limit solid transport. Though many changes have been observed with the small reservoirs, the obvious concerns were: How to get profit? How not to be a victim? How to avoid segregation or exclusion from resources?